

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT
PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 10/500,487

A Bluetooth apparatus and method of operating a frequency hopping spread spectrum is provided. The method includes, ~~preferably a Bluetooth piconet, comprising a~~ central node and a plurality of dependent nodes ~~which configured to~~ communicate over a time division duplexed[[,]] frequency hopping channel, a plurality of alternate time-wise frequency/time slots being allocated for central node and dependent node transmission, wherein a first ~~of said~~ dependent node[[s]] is not permitted to transmit in a frequency/time slot which immediately succeeds, time-wise, a frequency/time slot in which the central node is configured to transmit ~~transmitted to a second another of said~~ dependent node, nodes, comprising: ~~the steps of: the central node maintaining a black-~~ list of worse-performing frequency bands for the time division duplexed frequency hopping in the channel;[[,]] and transmitting a dummy packet in a frequency/time slot immediately preceding, time-wise, a frequency/time slot allocated for ~~possible a~~ dependent node transmission at a black-listed frequency band to prevent dependent node transmission ~~which is black-listed~~ at the black-listed frequency band.